

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/628,168
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60267

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 1-16 are allowed.

The Patent Office objects to claims 19-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 19-22 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant herein cancels claim 22, and incorporates its recitations into claim 17.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment to claim 17, since the amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-22 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,597,223) in view of Choi (U.S. Patent No. 5,181,117).

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 17 and 18 at least for the reasons discussed below.

Applicant herein amends claim 17 with the recitations of cancelled claim 22, a combination which the Patent Office has indicated is allowable. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 17 is allowable, and further submits that claim 18 is allowable as well, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 17. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 17 and 18.

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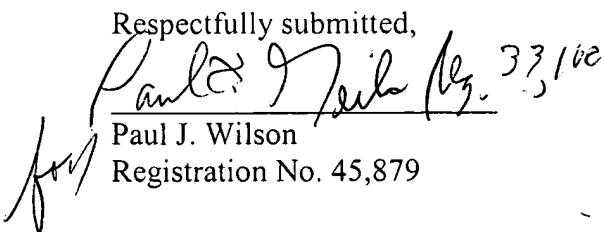
2. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe *et al.* in view of Choi and in further view of Helms (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,992). Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 18 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant herein amends claim 17 with the recitations of cancelled claim 22, a combination which the Patent Office has indicated is allowable. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 18 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 17. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 18.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 25, 2005